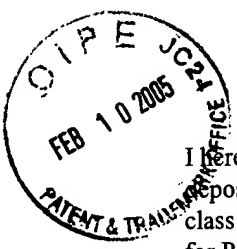
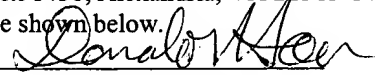


1751  
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PATENT  
TH0681N (US)  
DFH:EM

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on or before the date shown below.

  
Donald F. Haas  
Date: February 8, 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                    |   |                              |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In re application of               | ) |                              |
|                                    | ) |                              |
| DAVID M. SINGLETON, LOUIS KRAVETZ, | ) |                              |
| BRENDAN D. MURRAY                  | ) |                              |
|                                    | ) |                              |
| Serial No. 09/655,964              | ) | Group Art Unit: 1751         |
|                                    | ) |                              |
| Filed September 6, 2000            | ) | Examiner: Necholus Ogden Jr. |
|                                    | ) |                              |
| HIGHLY BRANCHED PRIMARY ALCOHOL    | ) | February 8, 2005             |
| COMPOSITIONS, AND BIODEGRADABLE    | ) |                              |
| <u>DETERGENTS MADE THEREFROM</u>   | ) |                              |

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

This paper is submitted in response to the office action of December 6, 2004. All of the claims in this case have been rejected under the judicially created Doctrine of Double Patenting over claims 1 through 39 of U.S. Patent No. 5,849,960 since the claims would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The referenced patent is the great grandparent of the present application which is a continuation of the grandparent which was a divisional of U.S. 5,849,960. Both this application and U.S. 5,849,960 have the same effective filing date of November 26, 1996. Therefore, a patent on this application should expire at exactly the same time as U.S. 5,849,960 and the right to exclude would not be extended.

The Applicants herein submit the enclosed terminal disclaimer disclaiming the term of any patent issuing on this application which would extend beyond the term of U.S. 5,849,960 as long as the two are commonly owned.

An early notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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